

June 27, 2011

Dear Members of the Growth Management Planning Council,

These planning meetings sound interesting, but I can never come because, ironically, I have no way to get there. I can never find parking in Seattle, so I rarely (okay - never during rush hour) drive there. There is no safe bike route from where I live to downtown Seattle (I will not ride on the roads with the cars when there is not a separate bike lane), and no real public transportation available from where I live on the Eastside, either. When our daughter attended college in Chicago - it was so easy to visit her. I could take the "L" right from the airport to within a couple blocks of her dorm. I never had to use or get into a car the entire time. My parents live in the Chicago suburbs, and I can hop on a train a couple miles from their house and take it into downtown Chicago. We just got back from Paris, France - and their Metro is simply amazing. We never used a car with the exception of taking a taxi from the airport to our hotel. We did a LOT of walking, took the Metro, and even rode bikes. You could hop on the Metro and go anywhere - with trains leaving every 3 minutes! They have "short" subway/elevated trains, "long" trains, buses, bike lanes, you name it. It was amazing. For Seattle to be a world-class city, it is imperative that substantial improvements be made to the transportation system. It is simply archaic at present. My fear is that Seattle has gone without a decent transportation system for so long, that people are set on driving themselves individually everywhere and would not want to help pay for a transportation system. Until you've actually experienced a transportation system that works, I think you tend to not see the value - and I think that someone needs to paint a picture for the public of what it would "look like" if Seattle had a viable transportation system. The public needs to know how this will benefit them personally - what it means for them

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